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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Weapon and Space Systems Intelligence Committee
15 July 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
Maj. Gen. Schuyler Bissell, USAF

FROM : Chairman

SUBJECT : Data Control

1. In response to a request from the Honorable Fred Ikle, the WSSIC has considered the intelligence data to be included in an embargo system. It is understood that the purpose of the embargo system would be to reduce the increasing number of "leaks" of these data or analyses thereof to the news media and to reduce the attendant impact of such "leaks".

2. As a result of its considerations, the WSSIC has reached the following observations:

- Current security regulations, classification systems, "need-to-know" requirements, and information handling procedures are adequate, if combined with proper individual and organizational discipline.
- This is a broad subject that could have a far-reaching adverse impact on the way the Intelligence Community conducts its business.
- This procedure is contrary to increasing demands from all levels of government for the early and increased release of intelligence.
- In the majority of cases, it is not possible to determine the potential significance of a newly acquired item of intelligence based on initial reporting. With field reporting, for example, it

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is often necessary to transport the data to the CONUS, process it, and conduct preliminary analysis in conjunction with other data before its potential significance is determined.

- In view of the complexity of the problem, only general ground rules can be established for such an embargo system.

3. The WSSIC believes that, if an embargo system is established, it should encompass all systems that are addressed by arms control as well as other weapon systems which have a major impact on the strategic balance of power (e.g., ballistic missiles, strategic bombers, cruise missiles, and ALCM carriers). The data to be embargoed should include R&D test data, COMINT, and photography regarding R&D tests, deployment, and information on new systems developments.

4. An embargo system should not preclude the transmittal of initial field reporting within the Intelligence Community, but the Intelligence Community internal and external distribution and reporting (e.g., the CIA NID, the DIA DINSUM, etc.) should be limited.

5. A list of consumers should be developed by the Interagency Group for access to the embargoed data. The period of embargo should be established on a case-by-case basis by the IG and kept to an absolute minimum. To be effective, the period of embargo should not exceed three to six weeks. That period should be sufficient to return data to the CONUS and accomplish preliminary processing and analysis so that the Intelligence Community can place the event in its proper perspective.



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